Million Wells Scheme in Maharashtra

*104 MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress made by the Million Well Scheme in Maharashtra particularly in the Vidarbha region of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the Central funds released and utilised under the scheme in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government have fixed any target for the wells in the State for the year 1997-98 and earmarked any funds for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (e) The progress in implementation of Million Wells Scheme .is reviewed on the basis of monthly and annual progress reports received from the State Governments. On the basis of the reports received from the Government, the progress of the scheme in nine districts in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra during 1996-97 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	District	O.B. as on 1.4.96	Funds released Central	State	Total	Total availability	Expenditure*	No. of wells constructed
1.	Buldhana	138.37	42.60	10.65	53.25	191.82	93.28	247
2.	Akola	247.00	53.98	13.49	67.45	314.51	270.18	478
3.	Amravati	72.52	90.89	22.67	113.36	185.88	141.50	84
4.	Yeotmal	451.56	95.05	23.76	118.81	570.37	316.00	424
5.	Wardha	9.08	79.15	19.78	98.94	108.00	63.70	184
6.	Nagpur	0.00	143.90	35.98	179.88	179.88	136.50	270
7.	Bhandara	0.05	187.83	46.98	234.79	234.34	140.93	484
8.	Chandrapur	27.79	157.53	39.38	106.91	224.70	145.73	449
9.	Gadchiroli	32.62	120.04	30.01	150.05	182.87	104.48	228
	Total:	979.23	970.76	242.68	1213.44	2192.67	1412.31	2826

'Includes expenditure on other works also.

The details of Central funds released and utilised in Maharashtra during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Central funds Released	Utilised
1994-95	7090.24	4565.82
1995-96	3786.82	3416.04
1996-97	3302.83	2943.36

During 1997-98, Central funds amounting to Rs. 3786.82 lakhs have been allocated to Maharashtra for the implementation of MWS and the State has fixed a target for construction of 6736 wells in

दिल्ली में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की प्रतीक्षा सूची

*105 **प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों हेतु कितने आवेदन पत्र प्रतीक्षा सूची में हैं

(ख) आवेदकों को अब तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं, और

(ग) सभी आवेदको को कब तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान किये जाने की संभावना हैं?

सचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा) : (क) 30.6.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार दिल्ली में प्रतीक्षा सूची में 17086 व्यक्तियों के नाम दर्ज हैं।

(ख) आवेदकों को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान नहीं किए जा सके क्योकि कुछ क्षेत्र तकनीकी रूप से व्यहार्य नहीं थे।

(घ) 1997-98 के दौरान प्रतीक्षा सूची का निपटान करने के लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं बशर्ते कि उपस्कर तथा अन्य संसाधन उपलब्ध हों।

Gandhiji's reservation about the Tricolour Flag

*106. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Gandhiji had reservations about the Tricolour Flag as appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 1st May, 1997;

(b) whether in 1931 the National Flag Committee of the Congress consisting of Sarvashri Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel, Maulana Azad and others had unanimously recommended that "the National Flag should be a Keshari or Saffron colour" (vide Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, File No. 11/27-1927 Important Pamphlets and Schemes-79F); and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider implementing the unanimous Congress Flag Committee Report, 1931, at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) Government have seen the press report in question.

It was recommended by the National Flag Committee in its report submitted in 1931 that the National Flag should be of kesari or saffron colour having on it at the left top quarter the Charkha in blue with the wheel towards the flagstaff. This is only of historical importance now. The matter relating to the National Flag was considered by the Constituent Assembly which passed a Resolution on 22nd July, 1947 adopting the National Flag in its present form. No change in the National Flag is considered necessary.

Bomb blast in local train

*107. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a powerful bomb exploded in a local train at Lehra Khana Railway Station in Bhatinda, Punjab on 8th July, 1997;

(b) if so, the number of persons injured/killed in the blast;

(c) whether Government are aware that the ISI activists in the country are trying to destabilize the Nation and planting bombs etc.;

(d) if so, whether Government have chalked out any scheme to counter the activities of ISI in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the blast at Lehra Khana Railway Station in Bhatinda, as many as 38 persons were killed while 67 persons were injured.

(c) Government is aware that Pak Intelligence Agencies and their agents have been trying to forge linkages between various militant groups based in the country, religious fundamentalists and foreign mercenaries, to widen the arc of militancy in India with a view to destabilize the country. However, due to utmost caution and vigil exercised by the personnel of State and Central Police Organisations and Army on Internal Security Duty a large number of infiltrators, terrorists and foreign mercenaries have been arrested and a large quantity of arms, ammunitions and explosives have been seized from them from time to time which have prevented many bomb